

Record

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

AIRBORNE — Jordan Holifield, a member of Indian Springs Church, Laurel, enjoys a thrill on June 4 as she streaks down a zipline from the wooden tower at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, during the first of several Girls in Action (GA) Summer Camps. (Photo by Tony Martin)



Miss. Baptist camps open for summer

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — The day camp at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko was buzzing on June 4 with 16 campers and four leaders, while the first-ever Mississippi Baptist Youth Camp there drew 65 campers and 42 staffers, and the North Pontotoc High School girls' basketball team held their annual summer workout in the gym — and that was only the first day of the first week of the 2007 summer camping season.

Camp Garaywa near Clinton was also a beehive of activity on June 4 as the first day of the first week of Girls in Action (GA) Summer Camp got underway. Two hundred and forty-five girls participated in this first event of the summer.

Hinds Community College in Raymond was transformed on June 4 from a college campus to a retreat facility as five weeks of Mississippi Baptist Summer Youth Camp began. As at Central Hills Retreat and Camp Garaywa, students from all over the state converged on this sleepy college town for a week of Bible study, worship, recreation, and general good times. Each week of camp runs for five days.

"We couldn't manage a program of this size without a top-notch staff," said Central Hills Retreat Manager Jim Ray. "A lot of people think this is a good place to get a taste of ministry, but it's not for starters. We have a lot of fun, but it's busy and it's intense."

"I look for staffers who have solid records of participation in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Baptist Student Union, and similar commitments. That tells me a lot about their knowledge of Scripture and doctrine, and their spiritual commitment."

"We try to accomplish four goals while these girls are at camp," said Robin Keels, consultant in the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union and program coordinator at Camp Garaywa. "First, we want them to know that they are uniquely created by God. Secondly, we want them to know what it means to be a Christian. Thirdly, for those who are Christians, we want them to learn what it means to grow. Fourth, we want for those who are Christians to know how to share."

Keels said each day is full of activities, including daily Bible studies, morning devotions, missionary visits, mission studies, Culture Camp, swimming, nature, ropes course, crafts, and more. There are 41 staff members for the summer.

"The point is to impact student's lives for Christ, to give them the opportunity to interact in Bible study and fellowship, worship and recreation, so that they can grow in Christ, become more like Him, and learn how to do ministry," said Huey Dedmon, consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and program coordinator for the Youth Camps at Hinds.

Youth Camp days consist of church group devotions, morning worship service, family group (Bible study) meetings, recreation, the Gathering (evening worship) and free time. Worship services are student-friendly and geared toward the teenage demographic with high-energy worship and praise and topical, relevant messages, Dedmon said. The college-age staff leads in all aspects of the program.

"With our camp, we offer many things students can't get anywhere else," said Dedmon. "Our camps tend to be a little bit smaller, so you have more one-on-one interaction. Kids get to know their Bible study leaders a lot better. We offer a top quality camp with top quality Bible study leaders and worship leaders, which would lead to kids wanting to know more about Christ."



CENTRAL HILLS TALENT — A trio of Central Hills Retreat staffers ham it up on June 4 during the talent show on the first evening of camp at the Mississippi Baptist facility near Kosciusko. Performing "The Knave" were Lee Hathcock (seated left), Brian Rhodus (seated right), and Steven Prewitt. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

The MBCB conference ministries program is supported by the Mississippi Cooperative Program. For more information, visit www.mbc.org.

Written by Editor William H. Perkins Jr. and Associate Editor Tony Martin.



FRIENDLY COMPETITION — During June 4 registration for the first of five Mississippi Baptist Youth Camps at Hinds Community College in Raymond, students and staffers enjoy a pickup game of volleyball. (Photo by Tony Martin)



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Our other summer missionaries

Last week's commentary in the space highlighted the Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) summer missionaries and their willingness to follow the Lord's lead in their lives by giving up a summer of fun and frolicking to commit themselves to important Kingdom work. There's another group of summer missionaries who also deserve our prayers and recognition for their Kingdom service.

The young men and women who staff our Mississippi Baptist camps for the summer season are just as important as the summer missionaries we commission to faraway lands. Their mission is the same: to lead people to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and ensure that their

feet are placed on a lifetime path of discipleship and Christian service.

"We couldn't manage a program of this size without a top-notch staff," says Central Hills Retreat Manager Jim Ray, in an article found elsewhere in this issue. "A lot of people think this is a good place to get a taste of ministry, but it's not for starters. We have a lot of fun, but it's busy and it's intense."

"I look for staffers who have solid records of participation in Sunday School, Vacation Bible

School, Baptist Student Union, and similar commitments. That tells me a lot about their knowledge of Scripture and doctrine, and their spiritual commitment," he says.

They'll need it. Camp work is not for the faint of heart. It gets hot and hectic at Mississippi Baptists' encampments — Central Hills in the woods outside Kosciusko, and Camp Garaywa in the woods of Clinton. This summer, Hinds Community College in Raymond has been added as a location for several weeks of Mississippi Baptist Youth Camps.

"Look at it this way," Ray points out, "at Central Hills, six-and-a-half acres of grass have to be cut for each profession of faith we are expecting this summer. Seventeen toilets have to be scrubbed for every profession of faith we are expecting this summer. A lot of the jobs our staffers do are not glamorous, but they have to be done. "Staffers have to have a heart for missions. That's critical to everything we do."

They have to have a heart for missions, and they have to be motivated. Just this week at Central Hills, there are 16 day campers and four leaders; 65 week-long campers and 42 staffers; and the girls' basketball team from North Pontotoc High School conducting their annual summer clinic.

The same holds true for Mississippi Baptists' other encampments. There are 245 young campers at Camp Garaywa this week for the first of



several Girls in Action (GA) camps, and 41 staff members. The Youth Camp at Hinds this week has 72 campers and sponsors, and 21 staffers.

From the ranks of these staffers will come many of our future Mississippi Baptist leaders. Ray, himself a four-summer Central Hills staffer, points proudly to such Central Hills staff alumni as current Mississippi BSU President Paul Corley and current BSU Vice-President Fletcher Lang, among many others.

Their efforts will not be in vain, as the Lord will raise up many leaders from the ranks of the campers influenced by these Godly summer staffers. Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Executive

Committee in Nashville and a native of Kosciusko, points to his days as a youngster at Camp Garaywa as some of the most influential times he experienced in his spiritual development and a key factor in his subsequent decision to answer the Lord's call into full-time ministry.

Chapman's story is only one among many — surely numbering in the thousands since Mississippi Baptists began their camping program in 1947. Like our other summer missionaries, we need to be praying for these faithful young men and women as they staff our encampments and prepare both themselves and others for lifetimes of Christian ministry.

To God be the glory for all they accomplish in His name.

Letter: human rights important in N. Korea negotiations

WASHINGTON (BP) — Two Southern Baptist public policy leaders have joined a diverse coalition to urge the Bush administration to make human rights a part of negotiations with North Korea.

Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and Barrett Duke, the ERLC's vice president for public policy, united with more than 30 others in a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to express their opposition to providing sizable monetary assistance to the Asian country without advances in human rights by the totalitarian regime.

The signers ranged from conservative organizations such as the Institute on Religion and Democracy and Traditional Values Coalition to typically liberal groups such as the AFL-CIO and the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism.

The letter went to Rice shortly before Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill traveled to Beijing, China, for talks in an effort to resolve an impasse with North Korea.

In February, the regime of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il agreed to shut down a nuclear facility in 60 days as part of a plan to dismantle its nuclear programs in exchange for limited energy aid. North Korea refused to follow through, however,

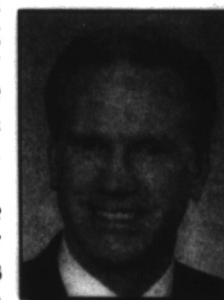


Land

until \$25 million in a Macao bank and linked to the communist regime is returned. No financial institution has been found to transfer the funds, however. A sizable portion of the money in the Macao bank was amassed through criminal activities, according to a U.S. investigation.

The coalition told Rice it believes the United States "must raise" human rights in discussions with the North Koreans, whether they are in negotiations between the U.S. and the Pyongyang regime or as part of the Six Party Talks. Those negotiations involve not only the U.S. and North Korea, but China, Japan, Russia, and South Korea as well.

The letter signers also said the U.S. should insist in Six Party Talks that China abide by treaties it has signed to protect North Korean refugees. They also said China must permit the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to have access to those refugees. China has been returning refugees fleeing Kim's regime to North Korea, where they face imprisonment, torture and even death.



Duke

The coalition asked for a meeting with Rice to gain her promise the U.S. "will vigorously promote improvement of North Korea's abysmal human rights and humanitarian conditions."

The letter also was sent for informational purposes to some of the presidential candidates: John Edwards and Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in the Democratic Party, and Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney, as well as Sens. Sam Brownback and John McCain, among Republicans.

Human rights and personal freedom do not exist in North Korea, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has reported.

Kim's regime is a perpetrator of a variety of human rights violations, among which are the detention, torture — including forced abortions — and execution of political prisoners. Human rights officials estimate 200,000 political prisoners are in North Korea's gulag system and about 400,000 inmates have died in those prisons in the last three decades.

The regime has diverted foreign food aid to the military or the black market, thereby contributing to the starvation of from two million to more than four million North Koreans since a famine began in 1995.

Billy Graham Library dedicated in North Carolina

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — A crowd of 1,500 people, including three former presidents, gathered in Charlotte, N.C., on May 31 to dedicate the Billy Graham Library, something the evangelist called "just a building" and an instrument to share the Gospel.

The 40,000-square-foot, \$27 million facility sits on 63 acres just four miles from the farm where Graham grew up. It opened to the public on June 5 for 90-minute self-guided tours with no cost for admission.

"I feel like I've been attending my own funeral with all these speeches," Graham, age 88, said during the dedication. "I know they all meant it but I feel terribly small and humbled by it all, and I feel I don't deserve it because it's been a whole team of people that have worked together, prayed together, traveled together, believed God was going to do wonderful things together."

Graham had asked former President George H.W. Bush to deliver the 12-minute keynote address for the dedication, while former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter spoke for about five minutes each. President George W. Bush, Graham said, sent a handwritten letter in recognition of the library's opening.

In addition to remarks by his son Franklin Graham, North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley, and others, Graham's longtime ministry partners George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows sang a hymn.

A tour of the library begins in a barn representing Graham's humble beginnings and expands into exhibits covering the eight-week tent

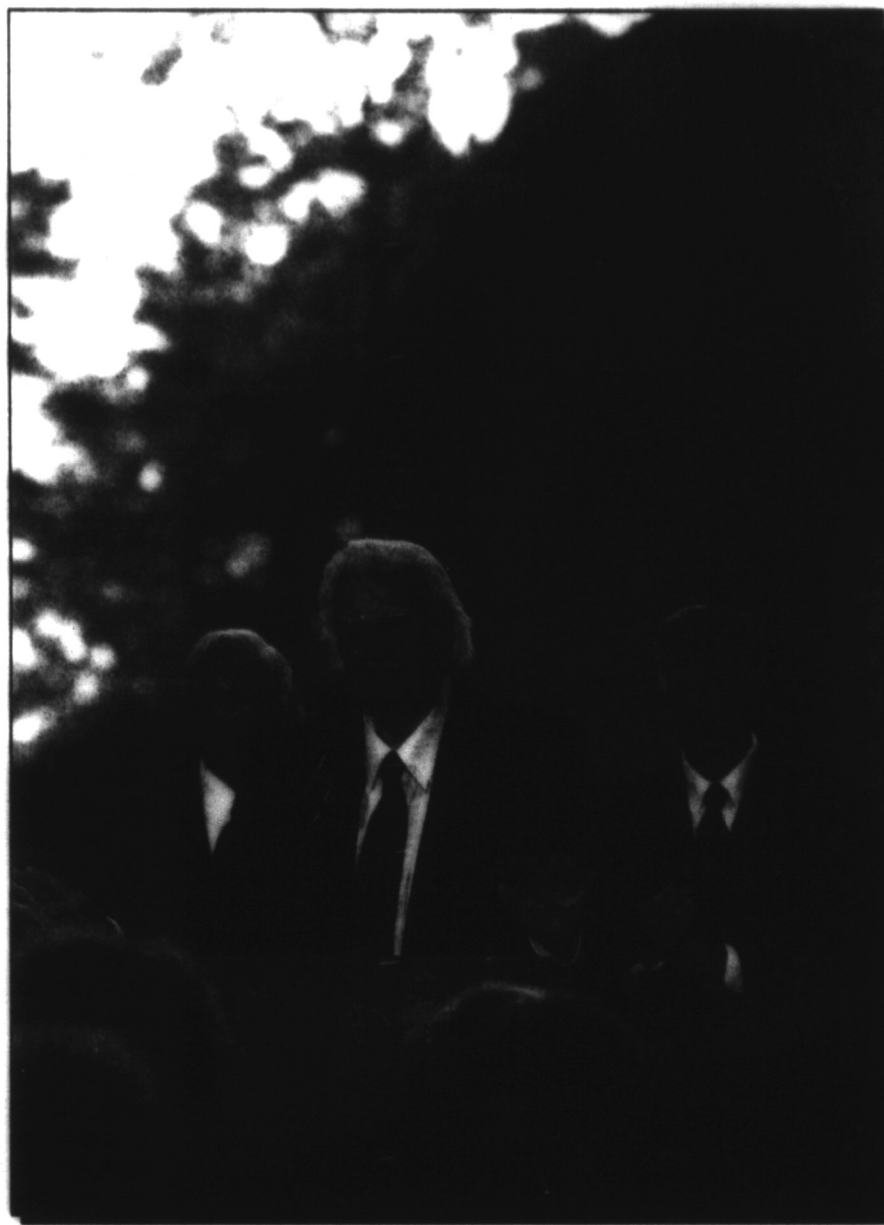
revival in Los Angeles in 1949 that catapulted his ministry; his trips to Asia, Africa and communist Eastern Europe; and his sermons offering hope in troubled times of American history, according to The Charlotte Observer.

Towering above the six exhibits, four galleries of more than 350 photographs and two theaters is a 24-by-40-foot cross-shaped glass window embedded in the front of the barn-shaped building.

"This library is not about Billy Graham, but it's about the message that Billy Graham has preached for the last 60-plus years," Franklin Graham said at the dedication, "and that is the message of the cross and if you look at the library, what you see is a cross. My father's name is not on the building, but the cross. The only way that you can come into the library is through the foot of the cross."

Billy Graham said his favorite part of the library is the room devoted to his wife Ruth Bell Graham, who has been bedridden for six months and could not attend the dedication. Franklin Graham said the room brought tears to his father's eyes because it reminded him of who she was 30 years ago.

"More than me, she deserves to be here today, and I'm so glad that some of our friends are here that have known her," Graham said of his wife. "Barbara Bush, what a wonderful friend you have been to us these years. How many times you have entertained us and loved Ruth; made speeches about Ruth; and one of your speeches is recorded in here and when people go through that, they'll hear what you have



STANDING OVATION — Evangelist Billy Graham receives a recognition during dedication ceremonies for the new Billy Graham Library in North Carolina. At right in background is Graham's son Franklin, who has assumed the leadership role from his father in the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. (BP photo by Guy Lyons)

to say about her, and I'm deeply grateful to you."

Before the dedication, Graham dined in the library café with the presidents, the former first lady, his son Franklin and Franklin's wife Jane, according to The Observer. The menu reflected Graham's roots: barbecue ribs and pulled pork sandwiches, apple pie, and sweet tea.

The Billy Graham Library will be the repository for Graham's personal papers, including his correspondence,

ministry records, and sermon manuscripts. For children, there is a scavenger hunt on the self-guided tour, starting with an animatronic cow named Bessie that tells of Graham as a young boy.

"It's a tool for ministry for years to come," Franklin Graham said of the library. "It's a tool for evangelism and long after my father and mother are in heaven, people are going to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ because of the message they hear inside those doors."

Strategist named

SOUTHLAKE, Texas (BP) — Bob Stith officially assumed the role of Southern Baptists' National Strategist for Gender Issues on June 1, leaving the pastorate of Carroll Church in Southlake, Texas. It was Stith who introduced a motion at the 2001 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting to "establish a task force to inform, educate, and encourage our people to be proactive and redemptive in reaching out to those who struggle with unwanted same-sex attractions." That task force now will serve as an advisory group to Stith, who is expected to develop workshops and conferences for training local church staff as well as resources for pastors, churches, SBC seminary students, and others to aid in their outreach to the homosexual community. LifeWay Christian Resources is providing start-up funding for the ministry, including Stith's position. "When God first convicted me about this issue in 1994, my whole attitude toward homosexuals was negative and condemning," Stith said. He readily admits he is a changed man — with a passion to tell whomever will listen that the church has a scriptural mandate to reach all people. Stith said he introduced the motion at the SBC to get the convention to look at the issue and consider a redemptive ministry to the homosexual community. Task Force member Jimmy Draper, immediate past president of LifeWay, acknowledged the difficulty in reaching out to many in the homosexual lifestyle because "they don't want your acceptance; they want your approval. That makes it very difficult because as biblical Christians we can never approve the homosexual lifestyle."



Stith

Looking back

10 years ago

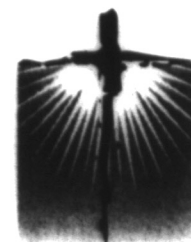
Greenwood native Larry Cox is named regional leader for the Middle East and North Africa by Foreign Mission Board trustees during their June 2-4 meeting.

20 years ago

A report from the trustees of Mississippi College to the Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention expresses doubt about the future of Clarke College in Newton. The report paints a desperate picture of financial indebtedness and accreditation problems.

50 years ago

The Billy Graham New York crusade is extended an additional three weeks to handle the overflow crowds each night. Total attendance for the first 20 rallies at Madison Square Gardens is over 357,000.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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VOL. 131

No. 23



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

GOSSIP STOPPER

Thoughtless speech has always been a problem. It is amazing to read the Bible and realize that it covers about 6,000 years in the making and to see all of the times that the tongue was a problem. Jesus said that we would be judged for every idle word. "But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" Matt. 12:36. He probably was referring to speech that has hurtful, damaging implications that we think nothing about. It is the insinuation and innuendo that we just pass along because we picked it up from somebody else. We feel comfortable in having the drop back position in life of saying, "Well, I didn't say it, he did!" Someone has rightly described gossip as ear pollution.

The other day I discovered something that might prove to be extremely helpful in curtailing our rambling tongues. It was one of those moments that so often happens when a great idea or a great invention comes about by accident. I had some of that Superglue and I was



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

mending a little broken piece at home when the discovery took place. This is what happened. I was holding the tube of glue and pulled the cap off with my teeth. I was carefully watching what I was doing. I put a few drops of the powerful instant stick, Superglue in the proper place. As I was trying to keep everything together, I took the tube to stick it back into the cap, and oops, I missed the cap and got Superglue all over my lips and even on my teeth.

At that point, I did not care if the thing I was fixing stayed broken or not. However, before I could get anything done, my lips were glued together. My bottom lip was stuck to my teeth and the cap to the glue was stuck to me between my

lips. Two thoughts immediately came to my mind. First, I wondered if I would rip the flesh off my lips if I pulled the cap away. Second, I wondered how many weeks or months it would take this stuff to wear off and I could get my mouth open again. I could imagine trying to preach with the middle of my mouth glued together and the cap from the tube stuck to my lips.

I gently pried the cap loose from my lips and then began to disengage my lips from my teeth. It was not a fun feeling. When I finally got everything separated from all the parts they were stuck to, I kept my mouth open and my lips protruding in order to keep the parts from getting stuck again. Then I began the process of trying to get the

powerful Superglue off my lips and teeth. I can tell you that brushing alone will not get the job done. Fortunately, in time I got it all cleaned off without too much damage.

James tells us in the third chapter of his epistle that a small bit can be put in a horse's mouth and it will control that large beast. A small rudder can be used to guide a huge ship, but it is difficult indeed to control the tongue! I guarantee you one thing: if a fellow squirted a little Superglue into his mouth and on his lips, he could be locked up for a good while and all you would hear would be mumbling. It might be worth a try.

A better solution to the gossip problem is to recognize the seriousness and the spiritual significance of the stewardship of our speech. We must allow God to control our tongues and seek to speak those things that are helpful and avoid those things that would be hurtful. You rarely regret something hurtful you did not say!

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

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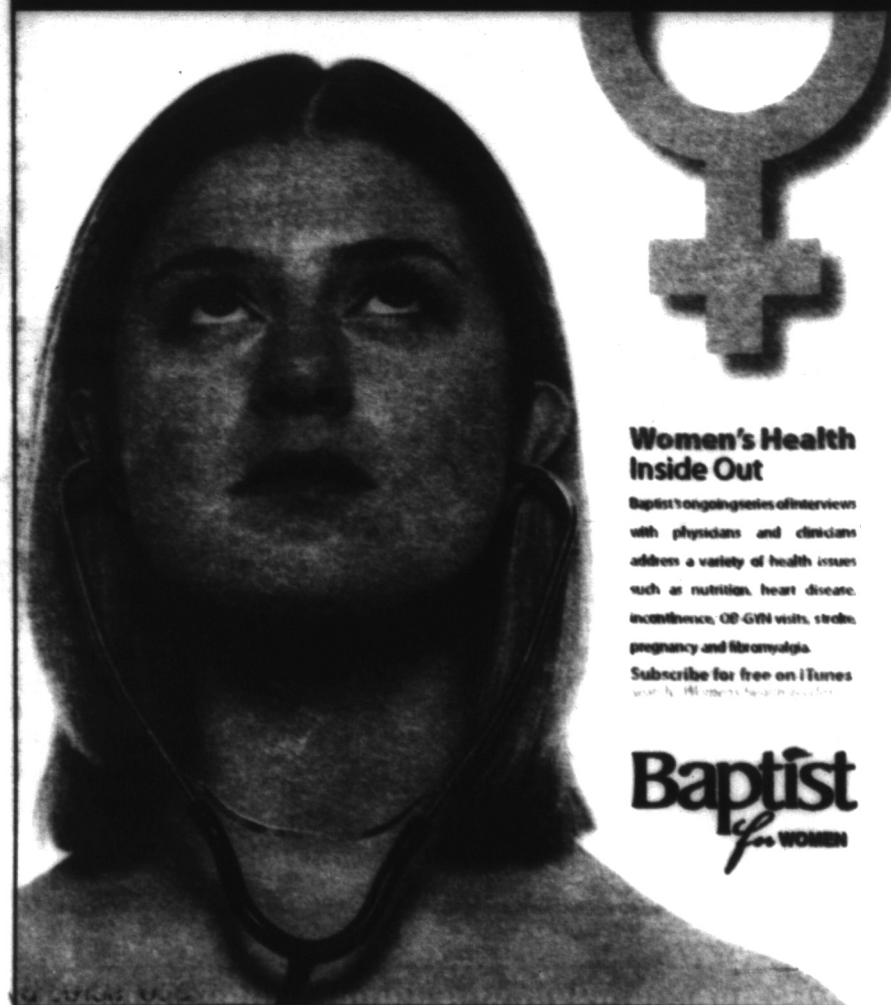


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HOMECOMINGS AND REVIVALS

Center Terrace Church, Canton: 75th anniversary homecoming, June 24; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and 1:30 p.m. service.

Laurel Hill Church, Neshoba County: Homecoming, June 10; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck meal, fellowship, and singing; Johnny Walker, speaker; Larry Winstead, music; Hugh Martin, pastor.

Rock Bluff Church, Rankin Association: Revival, June 10-13; Sun., 10:45 a.m. followed by covered dish meal; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; speakers, in order, Arlis Nichols, Scott Vaughn, Frank Smith, and Gayden Harrell; Cynthia Stuart, music; Donnie Stuart, pastor.

Siloam Church, Magee: Revival, June 10-13; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenny Culpepper, Florence, speaker; Travis Rushing, Crystal Springs, music; George Lewis, pastor.

Singleton Church, Louisville: Homecoming and revival, June 10-13; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Roy Hawkins, speaker; Wayne Sanders, pastor.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 7, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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July 12-14, 2007
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Lowry and Kandi Anderson

Lowry is senior pastor at Bel-Aire
Baptist Church in Gulfport.

Kandi manages the American Family
Radio in Gulfport, is a columnist for the
Sun Herald and author of *It's Just
Another Bloomin' Day*.

Lowry and Kandi are the parents
of three children and have six grandchil-
dren. They have led marriage conferences,
revival weekends and enjoy sharing a
testimony of "Puny Clay in the Hands of
a Great Potter."

FLAKE'S FORMULA

A SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE WITH A FOCUS ON MINISTRY

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WINONA

SCHEDULE: 9 A.M. TO NOON AT EACH
LOCATION

CONFERENCES WILL BE OFFERED FOR:

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Kay McDonnell, ministry assistant

2007 State Senior Adult Rally

Thursday, August 30

Mississippi College, Swor Auditorium

\$1 at door

Speaker: Dennis Swanberg

Music: Visionaries Choir, FBC, Hattiesburg



Swanberg

CONFERENCES

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• Success of Significance for Senior Adults

Tom Crocker, Memphis, Tenn., LifeWay Consultant

• Developing a Servant Heart

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Three Critical Concepts

SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m.	W
9 a.m.	O
10:30 a.m.	B
10:45 a.m.	M
noon	L
12:30 p.m.	B
1 p.m.	D



Nancy Finn

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SCHEDULE

W Welcome
D Compassion, Fatigue
S and Boundaries
B Break
M Margins
T Lunch
F Building Powerful Ministry
S Teams Overview
D Dismiss

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Friday and Saturday

July 27-28, 2007

FBC, Tupelo

Friday, July 27

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Conference Check-in

7:00 p.m. - SOME OF THE 27 CLASSES ARE:

WMU Leadership Classes
Men's Mission Classes
Evangelism Training
Youth Ministry Training
Pastoral Leadership
Deacons as Leaders
Teaching Ministry (taught in Spanish)
Sunday School (all age groups leadership)
Discipleship Training Classes
Bible Drill Training
Financial Issues
Personal Growth Classes
Church Planting

8:00 p.m. - 27 NEW CLASSES, INCLUDING:

Services to Target the Unchurched
Using Games to Pep-Up your Teaching
Counseling as a Ministry
SS for the Veteran Pastor
Speakers Tournament
Rewiring for Senior Adults
Staff Compensation
Teaching Ministry (continues in Spanish)

Saturday, July 28

8:00 a.m. - Check-in for New Arrivals

8:30 a.m. - 25 CLASS CHOICES:

(Many are new and some are repeats)
Missions Friends Leader Training
WMU Leadership Classes
Introduction to Disaster Relief
RA Racers/Camping/Other Events
Youth, Pastor, and Deacon Tracks cont.
Discipling Oral Learners (in Spanish)
Charitable Contributions
Physical Wellness
Developing a Biblical Worldview
Servanthood Evangelism
Sharing Christ with Children

9:30 a.m. - 24 CLASS CHOICES:

(Many are new and some are repeats)
Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts
GA Overview
Youth Mission Trip Planning
Retirement Issues for Church Staff
Simple Church

10:30 a.m. - 25 CLASS CHOICES:

(Many are new and some are repeats)
Drama in Worship
Deacons Partnering with the Pastor
Completion of Youth Track

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Libby Carlton, Younger Children
Carla Nichols, Older Children
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David Young

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ON SATURDAY



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June 8 - 21, 2007

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Samuel I. Forrest/sbcglobal.net

(1) National WMU Missions celebration, San Antonio, Tex., 10th - 11th (wMu & SBC); (2) Many volunteer teams went to Kazakhstan in 2006. Please pray that the seeds sown will be "watered" in the months ahead and for the breaking of bondages to traditional religious practices.

(1) Pray on this Father's Day that Christian men will seek to follow God's example; (2) Baptist Men's Day (MM Emphasis); (3) Currently a manual for training house church leaders is being translated into Russian. Pray for the final edit of the book, and ask that it will be ready for printing in the fall.

(1) Children's Mission Camp (Coed), Central Hills, 11th - 13th (MM); (2) 2 Youth Camp, 11th - 15th (SS); (3) GA Summer Camp, Garaywa, (wMu); (4) Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra Camp and Tour, William Carey University & Mississippi churches, 11th - 19th.

(1) Children's Music Camp (Coed), 18th - 20th (MM); (2) 1 Young Musicians Camp, Blue Mountain College, 18th - 22nd (CM); (3) GA Summer Camp, Garaywa, 18th - 22nd (wMu).

(1) Southern Baptist Convention, San Antonio, Tex., 12th - 13th; (2) Pray for local believers in Mega-Cities in Southeast Asia who want to be trained in how to share their faith. Ask that local key believers will want to become trainers and train others.

(1) 4 Youth Camp, 19th - 22nd (SS); (2) Please remember W, who was in the U.S. on stateside assignment and was hospitalized for acute prostatitis. His family has already returned to the field, so it is difficult being separated. Pray that he will get well soon and have no future complications.

Thank you for your prayers for the house groups and the leaders from Kalawisan Baptist Church of Metro Cebu, Philippines. The groups are meeting regularly. Please pray for Pastor M as he trains leaders. Ask that he and the house group leaders will have wisdom from above (James 3:17 NASB).

After four months, most of the imprisoned national evangelists in a "frontier" country have been released except for 43-year-old YM. She was arrested for visiting and praying for the sick and sharing the gospel. YH received two warnings to stop, but she refused and was arrested. She is beginning her fifth month in captivity.

(1) Children's Mission Camp (Coed), Central Hills, 14th - 16th (MM); (2) Donna Guillott, Bismarck, N.D., is supporting strategy team leader for the Dakota Convention. Pray for their team as they help churches capture a vision for mission education. Pray for God to open doors for her to share with more churches.

(1) Children's Mission Camp (Coed), Central Hills, 21st - 23rd (MM); (2) Paul went to Arabia and then returned to Tarsus his native town. After several years he went with Barnabas to Antioch where believers were first called "Christians." Pray for the Holy Spirit to again mightily draw many to Christ in this place.

An older but adventurous person from the United States has traveled to Korea to teach English and Bible in one of the private high schools in the city of Won Ju. Pray for her to be effective and engaging in her classes and to have many opportunities to share the love of Christ with her students.

Pray for workers who are currently learning the Thai language. Ask God supernaturally to increase their comprehension and fluency! Pray that they will persevere in the language learning process and not give way to discouragement.

Pray that the people of Nata Baptist Church, Northeast Botswana, will take leadership of their church since their resident missionary moved to a new location at the end of September last year.



AUGUST

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Choir Coordinator: Lujean Howard, Clinician

ELECTIVE CLASSES ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AFTERNOON

"Plans and Pluses" - Kim Rowlen
"Musical Props" - Kim Rowlen
"Resource Round-up" - Kim Rowlen
"Early Childhood Development: Birth through 3 years"
"Early Childhood Development: 4 and 5 year olds"
Dr. Mary Ann Greene
"Vocal Skills for the Older Child" - Allen Harris
"Help, I'm Teaching Choir and I'm Not a Musician"
"Encouraging 'God Moments' During Choir Time"
Paige Tweedy

"Music for 2's & 3's" - Sandy Lewis
"Purposeful Movement" - Libby Carlton
"Music & More for 3's" - Debbie Wren
"All About Orff" - Carla Nichols

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8/27/00
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HOUSE TOPS

COLLEGE NEWS



1. Doctoral Graduates, New Orleans Seminary

1. Four with Mississippi ties were doctoral graduates from New Orleans Seminary May 19. Shown, from left, are Raymond Grabert Jr. (D.Min.), Jamie Holden (Ph.D.), seminary president Chuck Kelly, Richard Strebeck (Ph.D.), and Brian Rushing (Ph.D.).

Graduates with Mississippi ties from New Orleans Seminary include Dawn Early, Desoto; Kenneth Leslie, Tupelo; Jermaine Watson, Meridian; Deborah Westbrook, Brandon; Jennifer Jefcoat, Saltillo; Robert Kelly, Jr., Poplarville; Michael McDaniel, Picayune; Hope Drummond, Picayune; Clifton Curtis, Winona; Rowland Hall, Clinton;

Kimberly Oglesbee Myers, Hickory; Scott Fortenberry, Clinton; Al Joslin, Crystal Springs Church, Tylertown; Marcus Kelly, Hattiesburg; Derek Lambert, Silver Creek; James Phillips, Ellisville; Matthew Stark, Amory; Jeffrey Wicker, Natchez; Courtney Eichelberger, Booneville; Jon Martin, Philadelphia; Christine Wright, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; Cliff Hardin, Madison; David Williams, Brookhaven; Raymond Grabert, Jr., Bethany Church, Calhoun City; Jamie Holden, Jackson; and William Carpenter, Mantee.

Graduates with Mississippi ties from Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., include Jay White,

Oxford; R. Caleb Clark, Hattiesburg; and Jason Dominic Newell, Jackson.

2. Carey Dinner Theatre, Mississippi's unique dinner theatre, has announced its 2007 season of productions. The 32nd season begins June 14 and ends July 21. CDT's first production is *The Spitfire Grill* by James Valcq and Fred Alley, based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff. The musical depicts the journey of a young woman just released from prison who decides to start her life anew in a rural Wisconsin town. The show will run June 14 through 30. The second production is Rogers and Hammerstein's musical revue *A Grand Night for Singing* which will run July 10 through 21. This imaginative and innovative revue features some of the most loved songs from *The Sound of Music*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel*, *Oklahoma*, *Cinderella*, *The King and I* and others. The 2007 shows will be presented nightly except Sundays and Mondays. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. in the O. L. Quave Theatre, with the performance following. The box office is open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily except Sundays beginning June 4,

and seats may be reserved by calling (601) 318-6221. The admission price of \$25 includes dinner, show and program book.

3. First time freshmen who enter William Carey University in the winter trimester of 2007 will be required to meet the new admission standard of a 20 composite score on the American College Test (ACT) exam or achieve 950 on the College Entrance Examination Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The ACT score, raised from a score of 19 in 2006, is seen by Carey officials as positive for both the university as well as future students. The admission standards will also require minimum ACT English subscore of 14 and math subscore of 15 on the same test to be eligible for financial aid. Students who are valedictorians, salutatorians, or who rank in the top five percent of their secondary school graduating classes or in the top ten percent nationally on the SAT, the ACT, the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, or other nationally recognized college entrance tests may apply for admission to the freshman honors program.

Bibliocipher

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GTJ ZNKE IUTYOJKX TUZ
OT ZNKOX NKGXZY
ZNGZ O XKSXSHKX GRR
ZNKOX COIQKJTKYY; TUC
ZNKOX UCT JUOTMY
NGBK HKYKZ ZNKS
GHUAZ; ZNKE GXK
HKLUXK SE LGIK.

NUYKG YKBKT: ZCU

Clue: T = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Daniel Five: Five.

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1. Massey and wife

1. **Carmel Church, Monticello** has called Troy L. Massey, Sr., as pastor. He has spent the last 40 years as pastor, director of missions and a NAMB missionary. He holds degrees from Clarke Memorial College, East Texas University, and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Sandra reside in Bogue Chitto.

CELEBRATION

Dr. Carl Savell
and

Rev. Raymond A. Ball
invite you to join with them
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This celebration will be held on
June 17, 2007, AT 2 P.M.
Westview Baptist Church, 1910
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VBS

Cairo Church, Ecu: June
10-15, 6-8:30 p.m.; Friday
night parent's night.

**Calvary Church, Bogue
Chitto:** June 18-22, 8:30-
11:30 a.m., ages 3 years-
6th grade; youth, 7-12th
grade, 4-8 p.m.

First Church, Durant:
June 18-22, 8:20-11:30
a.m., ages 3-12; registra-
tion, June 16, 9 a.m.-noon,
followed by hayride.

**Holly Grove Church,
Braxton:** June 12-15, 6-8
p.m.; family night June
16, 6 p.m.

MS POSITIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Planters-
ville, Miss., seeks a part-time Youth
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Associations flourish as Miss. gains statehood

Fifth in a series

By Frank Lay
Correspondent

Under the administration of the United States, religious freedom was granted in the Mississippi Territory. This opened the door to a new wave of immigration into southwestern Mississippi. From 1800-10, the population increased from 8,850 to 40,352. A number of the new immigrants were Baptists and soon helped organize new churches.

Salem Church had already begun a new church at Bayou Pierre near present day Port Gibson. In 1800, New Hope Church in Adams County and Bethel Church at Bayou Sara near Woodville were organized. In 1805, New Providence Church and Ebenezer Church were begun in Amite County.

Several of the immigrants were acquainted with the Charleston Baptist Association and encouraged the formation of an association in Mississippi. Salem Church invited representatives from the churches to a meeting for the purpose of organizing an association. Representatives from five churches met in August or September 1806, and formed the first Baptist association in Mississippi. Unfortunately, no minutes were kept of the first meeting. The new organization became known as the Mississippi Baptist Association, and celebrated 200 years of existence in 2006.

Five churches were represented at the next associational meeting at Bethel Church in 1807. Saturday and Sunday were spent in public worship and concluded with the Lord's Supper. The business session began on Monday at 10 a.m. with the associational sermon. Moses Hadley was elected moderator and Robert Tanner was elected clerk.

It is interesting that the five churches in attendance represented less than 100 members. By 1812, the number of churches had increased to 14. By the time Mississippi

became a state in 1817, there were 33 churches in Mississippi Association.

Mississippi Association was very mission minded from its inception. In time the association included churches in Louisiana and in all 14 counties which then comprised Mississippi.

The Bayou Pierre church organized the first African church in Mississippi. However, the state legislature forced its closure. Members of the African church were integrated into the white churches. In 1817, the association sent Thomas Mercer and Benjamin Davis to work with the Creek Indians. However, Mercer died on the journey, and the project ended.

As the association covered such a large territory, it became necessary to divide. In 1817, churches west of the Mississippi River were

dismissed from the association to continue Baptist work in Louisiana. By 1820, the churches north of the Homochitto River petitioned for dismissal from the association in order to form Union Association (September 1820). Churches east of the Pearl River also petitioned for dismissal from the association, in order to organize Pearl River Association. Pearl River Association grew rapidly and by 1836, there were 33 member churches.

In February 1824, representatives from Pearl River, Union, and the Mississippi associations met at Bogue Chitto to organize the Mississippi Baptist State Convention. However, the first attempt at a state convention resulted in failure due to the anti-missionary influence of the hyper-Calvinistic Hardshells and the Campbellites. While these two groups were different in theology, they were united in their opposition of missions.

The associations were forced to deal with the anti-mission spirit. As a result, a number of churches as well as ministers were dismissed for their views.

In September 1836, Ashley Vaughn began publishing The Southwestern Religious Luminary. Vaughn called for

the formation of a state convention. Mississippi Association called for a meeting on December 23-24, 1836, at Washington Church for the purpose of organizing a state convention. In spite of inclement weather, ten Baptists met and organized The Convention of the Baptist Denomination of the State of Mississippi.

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Lay is associational missions director for Carroll-Montgomery Association in Winona. He may be contacted at carmont@bellsouth.net. Next week: Baptist associations grow in stature, power.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Practice Obedience Diligently

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9, 15-20, 39-40

By Laura Leathers

A phrase our children heard during their early years of home schooling was "I will obey right away." The motivational phrase demanded action and based upon their decision, consequences or blessings would ensue. Our children have grown older and the phrase — rarely used. Now we expect obedience to flow from their character and love for us. Regardless of age, the call for obedience is for everyone. Yet, many adults live by their own rules, go beyond the boundaries of civil law, choose to live by cultural idolatry, and go with the tide of changing ethical standards.

The first part of Moses' farewell speech was an Israel history refresher course. (Deut. 1-3). Beginning in chapter four his speech transitions; the focus is on the responsibility the new gener-

ation has in learning and applying God's statutes and judgments. Listen carefully; the plea for obedience is for you too.

1. Make God's Word Your Standard (Deut. 4:1-2)

"So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17, NKJV). For a Christian, the first step to obedience is to listen to His instruction. "Hearing God's Word is a matter of focusing our whole being — mind, heart, and will — on the Lord, receiving what He says to us and obeying it. The Word of God must penetrate our hearts and become a part of our inner being if it is to change our lives — Warren Wiersbe."

With each step of obedience through faith there will be victory (Deut. 4:1b) (1 John 5:4, 5). Listen to what I teach you to observe that you may live, and go in and possess the land.



Leathers

Victory follows obedience because it is based upon His sufficient and complete Word.

A word of warning — do not add or take away from His Word (Deut. 12:32, Prov. 30:6; Gal. 3:15; Rev. 22:18-19). Jesus addressed this problem in Mark 1:1-13 — keeping man's traditions verses keeping the commandments.

"The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever" (Psalm 119:160). His Word is truth (John 17:17)

2. Carefully Guard Your Testimony (Deut. 4:6-9)

People are watching! Moses reminds the Israelites they have an opportunity to be a witness to the nations. No other nation had God so near or had such statutes and righteous judgments. No other nation could call upon Jehovah for whatever reason. Therefore, they were to take heed, remember what they had seen, and keep it in their hearts all the days of their lives. Finally, the responsibility was laid upon them to teach the statutes and

righteous judgments to their children and grandchildren (a repeated theme throughout the book of Deuteronomy).

"You may be the only Bible some people read" is a very true statement. People are watching to see if our lives are different because we have a living and vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ.

3. Avoid Idolatry at All Costs (Deut. 4:15-20)

Idolatry is "elevating any person, thing, or idea above the true and living God as revealed in His Word, the Bible."

At Horeb the nation of Israel heard God speak and received the Ten Commandments. The first four dealt specifically with Israel's relationship with God. There is but one God, they were to have no other gods before them, honor God's name, and observe the Sabbath (Exodus 20:1-17). The nation of Israel would be dealing with nations who worshipped many gods and goddesses. Nothing was to come between their relationship with God.

Christians beware; there is danger in idolatry, lest we think we are different than the nation

of Israel. We've replaced hearing God's Word with the worship of things and entertainment. We value the opinions of talk show hosts over the precepts of the Bible. Take careful heed of anything which corrupts your understanding of God or distorts your relationship with Him.

4. Realize God Blesses Obedience (Deut. 4:39-40)

Blessings given to the nation of Israel: chosen by God, received His covenant and Law, taken out of the land of Egypt, cared for, and led by Him from the time of Abraham. Did they deserve God's blessings? Absolutely not! Moses tells them it is because of God's love for their fathers (Deut. 4:37) they were blessed. (See also Deut. 7:7-8, 13, 23:5). The nation of Israel needed to demonstrate their love for God through their obedience to His Word, guarding their testimony, and fearing Him all the days they lived on the earth. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15-21). Obedience brings blessings!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Accept God's Lordship

Obadiah 1-4, 10-13, 15

By Charles Rodgers

We live in a day when the masses around us have become extremely egotistical. Truth has become relative, personal rights have taken precedence over the rights of others, and greed and selfishness are prevalent. God has been left out of the equation as people seek to fulfill their own selfish lusts. The slogan for the day is "I want to have it my way." This attitude rejects the authority of God upon individual lives and impacts the way they treat other people.

According to Obadiah, this attitude was also true of the Edomites. Obadiah addresses the impending destruction of Edom because of their pride and their participation in Judah's downfall. The emphasis is on what happens to those who arrogantly oppose God and His peo-

ple. This book is probably the least known book of the Old Testament. It is certainly the shortest book and expresses a very unpopular theme — judgment and condemnation.

The focal passage provides comfort for God's people who have suffered at the hands of the Edomites. It is also a stern warning to nations and individuals who oppose the Lord and His people that God will indeed bring them down.

He encourages the people of God to:

I. Trust the Lord's Power — Obadiah 1-4

God is saying to the inhabitants of Judah, let God illustrate His power in your behalf. Edom will be made small or insignificant among the nations, utterly despised. They have made a terrible mistake with their secure



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haughtiness, presumptuous godlessness, and self-sufficiency. God intends to bring Edom from her lofty, arrogant position of pride to face the realities of divine judgment. There are no heights where one can go to escape the power of God. Like the people of Judah, we can trust the power of God to right the wrongs committed against us.

II. Practice the Lord's Compassion — Obadiah 10-13

Obadiah gets very graphic about Edom's part in Judah's downfall and rebukes them for it. He reminds Edom that they stood aloof and refused to help as the invaders came and carried off Jacob's wealth and as the foreigners came in and cast lots in Jerusalem. In 587 B. C., after an 18-month siege by the invaders, Judah was starved and beaten to helplessness. With vengeance the Babylonians entered the city and looted, pillaged, and killed many of the inhabitants. Edom's position related to the Babylonians was virtually the same as

Judah's. And yet, Edom gloated over the destruction of Judah and participated in the looting. In addition, Edom blocked the escape routes of the fleeing refugees of Judah and actually detained refugees and turned them over to the Babylonians.

Verse 10 indicates that the people of Edom would be shamed by the Lord's judgment brought against them because of their mistreatment of Judah's people. They should have been more compassionate toward their sister nation. Does this say something to us today about the way we treat others when calamity comes into their lives? Do we gloat over their downfall? Do we take part in pillaging their lives? It was not right for Edom, and it is not right for us. Those who mistreat others in selfish efforts to gain advantage or get ahead ignore God's Lordship and bring shame upon their own selves.

III. Rely on the Lord's Justice — Obadiah 15

Obadiah reminds the people of God that He is much better equipped to impart justice upon their enemies. The day of

the Lord here in this verse has both an immediate and an ultimate fulfillment. A day is coming sooner or later on which God will bring misery to Edom, as well as, to other individuals and nations who mistreat God's people. He indicates in this verse that the justice will be appropriate and reciprocal.

God's people are encouraged here not to dwell on the wrongdoing of others toward us. We do not need to keep score of the evil deeds carried out against us. God will visit His justice upon all who reject His Lordship and who mistreat His people. This passage is also a reminder that if we do reject God's lordship ourselves, and if we do participate in the downfall of others, there is a judgment day coming for us as well. And God will repay in kind our evil deeds, and we indeed will be brought to shame and disgrace.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

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ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

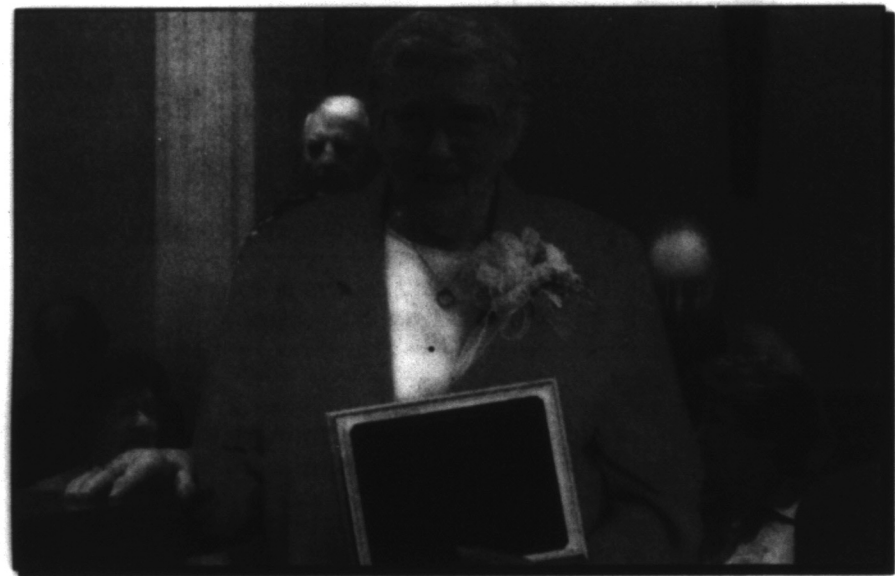
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Bible Drillers, Salem Church, Leake County



2. White honored, Bethel Church, Hazlehurst



3. 10th Anniversary Gathering, Calvary Chapel, Parchman



4. McCormick ordained, Zion Hill Church, Wesson

1. Salem Church, Leake County, recognizes its Bible Drillers. From left, Candace Barrett, Monica Johnson, Kalin Hester, Jasmine McCaughn, and Kacy Hester.

2. Bethel Church, Hazlehurst, honored Melba White on Mother's Day for 60 years of continuous service as church pianist and organist.

3. Hispanics from five counties gathered at Calvary Chapel, Parchman, for the 10th anniversary of the church. Eight churches participated, with an offering taken to assist the building program of the Iglesia Bautista Internacional de las Americas in Carthage. Shown are some of the participants.

4. Zion Hill Church, Wesson, ordained Josh McCormick to the ministry May 6. McCormick will serve as youth pastor of Shelton Church, Jones County. Shown are McCormick and his father Tom McCormick, pastor of Zion Hill.

5. Pope Church, Pope, recognizes its Bible Drillers: Front (Bible Buddies), Tyler Allen and Ryan McCurdy; 2nd row (children), Amelia Bailey and Tyler Shook; 3rd and 4th rows (youth), Annah Bailey, Haley Beth Allen, Matt Hendrix, and Walt Karr.

6. Bethel Church, Columbus, exceeded their goal for North American missions by collecting \$645. Shown are pastor Walter Butler, John Mark Jolly, and members of Bethel's Women on Mission.

7. Chuck Johnson, International Mission Board representative, was in Mississippi for Envision '07 International Missions Event Apr. 30-May 2, speaking at several churches throughout the Delta. He is seen here preaching at the Hispanic Mission, Sunflower. Shown are Johnson, Joe Young, and pastor Esteban Martinez.

8. Park Haven Church, Laurel, is hosting a gospel sing June 16, 7 p.m., featuring Hearts Desire.

9. The Ladies II Sunday School class of Becker Church, Becker, recently made a donation of car seats, small overnight bags, diapers and stuffed toys to the Children's Services of Monroe County. Shown are some of the participants; Margaret Shields, teacher.



5. Bible Drillers, Pope Church, Pope



6. Mission goal exceeded, Bethel Church, Columbus



7. Chuck Johnson speaks at Hispanic Mission, Sunflower



9. Ladies II Sunday School Class, Becker Church, Becker